

3. CONCLUSION

The Penthouse is an example of Korean drama where the female character can get out of the trap of the dominant ideology that is often attached to women. Women are usually only shown by emphasizing their feminine sides, so it is feared that this can create limitations on women's roles. This shows the female characters in the Korean drama *The Penthouse* as a whole the figure of women who are feminine-masculine if we analyze it from the traits indicates that the female character displayed is considered dominant. Based on the analysis that has been done in the previous chapter, these four women are portrayed as femme fatales to achieve their goals.

Cheon Seo Jin appears as the antagonist based on her appearance and behavior throughout the series. Her strategies to get what she wants are manipulative and seductive. The analysis of her actions and what she did supports this argument. Oh Yoon Hee, appears as an innocent woman for the first half of the movie but turns out to be a femme fatale because of her strong will to save her daughter and to protect her loved ones. She becomes a master manipulator who uses her charm and beauty to get what she wants. Her desire for more social status and wealth leads her to make ruthless decisions. Her strategies to get what she wants are seductive, manipulative, and interdependent. Oh Yoon Hee's character serves as a lesson for us about how we will become when material possessions and craving for power are more important than a genuine relationship with other human beings. Ha Eun Byeol most of the time is portrayed to look and act innocent despite the wrong things that she had done before. This perfect emotional manipulation allows her to run away from any suspicion towards her. She is a tragic character who becomes consumed by her dark side. Her innocence and naivety shown at the beginning of the show slowly fade until gone, erased by her desire for love, acceptance, and corruption. In the end, she destroys her relationship with other people only to chase her own ultimate goal. Her strategies to get what she wants are intelligence manipulation, emotion manipulation, and great adaptive skills. The last character analyzed is, Joo Seok Kyung. We can see Seok Kyung as a femme fatale based on her actions throughout the series, her arrogance and her wicked behavior to tend to look innocent made her a perfect manipulator. Seok Kyung's strategies are ruthless ambitions to achieve what she wants despite how she gets it, forming advantageous allies, and emotional manipulation. Audiences, both male and female, tend to interpret female characters according to what is shown. Even so, the difference in meaning is still visible.

The common themes among these characters are their ambitions toward their ultimate goals, great manipulation, lack of empathy, corruption, and consequences. Each of these characters is driven by their ambition to reach their ultimate goals, which leads them to make ruthless decisions to get rid of anything in their path. Oh Yoon Hee to raise her social status get a place in Hera Palace, and bring her daughter a better life, Cheon Seo Jin to conquer the world of classical music and get rid of Oh Yoon Hee, her rival since their high school times, Ha Eun Byeol to be the best students and passing Bae Ro Na who is her rival, making her doing anything to crush Bae Ro Na. Joo Seok Kyung is also driven by her ambition to confirm her powerful social status rise above the others and be the best. Each character desires something more, whether her social status, wealth, power, acknowledgment, or success. This blurred lines between right and wrong, as they become more consumed by their ambition, they are willing to do anything. Great manipulation is also a common theme among those characters, whether their emotional manipulation like Ha Eun Byeol and Joo Seok Kyung, intelligence manipulation used by Ha Eun Byeol, or charm and wit like Cheon Seo Jin and Oh Yoon Hee. Each character has a way of manipulating others around them and get what they want. They are masters of psychological manipulation. They also have common things like lack of empathy which is that these characters are deeply self-centered, proved by their goals only tend to focus on themselves, not anybody. They prioritize their own goals and desires over enjoying the feelings of those around them. This also leads to a lack of moral compass, they cannot even know what is the right thing to do anymore, and their action is based just on their desires and goals. This also leads to corruption, where they are all morally ambiguous, each character makes morally questionable choices, often justifying their actions as the right thing to do to defend themselves or their success. This also later makes them unable to sense guilt anymore. They stop feeling guilty about things they have done badly to others and refuse to take responsibility for their actions, blaming others and giving excuses instead. The last thing they have in common, and the most important is consequences. The consequences of their actions are severe, throughout the movie, their peaceful lives which maybe all of us dream of having, later become crumbling, and they destroy their own family, relationships with others, reputations, and even lives. In the end, these characters even lose their sense of identity and purpose. What they chase all this time fades, and they are left alone, surrounded by all the mess and wreck that leave from their action.

The femme fatale antagonists we analyzed in *The Penthouse* are complex and fascinating characters. At the beginning of the movie, they may appear to be a ruthless and cunning

individual who is only out for themselves. However, upon closer examination, it becomes clear that they are driven by their desire for survival and willing to strive for more

These characters are often considered evil or manipulative, but they are simply fighting for their lives and their goals, to chase their goals. They are forced to navigate a treacherous world where the rules are constantly changing, and they must use whatever means necessary to get what they want. Their actions may be considered cruel or manipulative, but they are often motivated by a desire to protect themselves. They may use strategies that seem ruthless but these are simply the tools they have at their disposal in a world that is stacked against them. Despite their strategy to achieve their goals is not considered good, these characters are not inherently evil. They are human beings who are fighting for their place in the world and will do whatever it takes to achieve their goals. They are not necessarily morally inferior to the protagonists, but rather, they operate within their moral framework that is shaped by their experiences and surroundings. The femme fatale antagonists often become antagonists because of societal expectations and norms. We are taught to sympathize with those who are perceived as victims and to condemn those who are seen as aggressors, which in this movie is portrayed by the characters that I have analyzed. However, this oversimplification does not allow for a nuanced understanding of complex characters like the femme fatale.

In conclusion, the femme fatale antagonists in *The Penthouse* are complex characters who are driven by their ambitions and goals. While their strategy may be morally questionable, they are not inherently evil. Instead, they are human beings who operate within their moral framework and will do whatever it takes to achieve their goals. The femme fatale is a perfect symbol for the power of femininity, the ultimate metaphor for the absolute potential and darker side of feminine power. The femme fatale archetype is neither masculine nor self-destructive. Instead, she lives on the thin line between a soothing and nurturing feminine, and the one who devours the children and all men. The femme fatale is the sinister edge of feminine energy, reminding us that what is created also has the power to destroy.